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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

72-HOUR REPORT**9 APRIL 2018**

(U) CALIFORNIA**(U) Los Angeles – Man Acted Alone to Set Off Explosives in Store**

(U) A man suspected of setting off explosives in a store in Southern California was booked on suspicion of igniting a destructive device but was not believed to be connected to any criminal or extremist groups, police said. Hugo Gonzalez, 49, is being held on several charges, including suspicion of arson and possessing a destructive device. Gonzalez is suspected of detonating two explosive devices inside the Sam's Club store in the city of Ontario. The explosives went off on opposite sides of the store and ignited products around them. No injuries were reported.

SOURCE: 6 April 2018, [Associated Press](#)

(U) San Francisco – Police Arrest Man Who Stole Guns and Threatened Shooting in San Francisco

(U) Authorities on 6 April arrested a man accused of stealing guns from his family's San Jose home and leaving behind a letter threatening to shoot police officers and people in San Francisco. Police said 44-year-old Dustin Hamilton, a San Jose native and transient, who was recently living in San Francisco, was arrested just before 6 a.m. near Fourth and King streets, near AT&T Park. Police recovered two guns during the arrest. A .357 pistol and shotgun were reported stolen on 4 April from his family's home.

SOURCE: 6 April 2018, [Mercury News](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER**(U) Pine Valley – 19 in Custody after Horse Trailer Smuggling Immigrants Overturms on Highway**

(U) Nineteen people are in custody after the horse trailer they were traveling in crashed on 7 April on Interstate 8, about 55 miles east of San Diego. The trailer separated from a Ford F250 pickup truck and overturned just before noon. Border Patrol agents said that the trailer was smuggling people into the country and all of the apprehended people were identified as Mexican nationals. Six people were injured and the driver of the truck managed to escape.

SOURCE: 7 April 2018, [ABC 10 News](#)

(U) NATIONAL**(U) Arizona – Feds Charge Backpage Founder after Human-Trafficking Investigation**

(U) Phoenix – A founder of a 45-year-old alternative weekly newspaper in Phoenix has been charged in the apparent culmination of a federal human-trafficking investigation. Michael Lacy, 69, of Sedona, Arizona, who helped build a nationwide media empire out of the *Phoenix New Times*, was charged Friday as part of a 93-count indictment that remained sealed. Lacey also co-founded the online classified advertising site Backpage, and authorities had spent months probing whether the website served as a willing participant in the online sale of sex, including with underage girls.

SOURCE: 7 April 2018, [USA Today](#)

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UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**(U) District of Columbia – National Guard Troops Deploy to Southern US Border**

(U) Washington – Defense Secretary James N. Mattis authorized up to 4,000 National Guard troops to deploy to the US border with Mexico to support the Department of Homeland Security border security mission there. National Guard troops began deploying after the announcement of the authorization. In a joint statement, Mattis and DHS Secretary Kirstjen M. Nielson said DHS worked closely with border-state governors and identified security vulnerabilities the National Guard could address.

SOURCE: 7 April 2018, [US Department of Defense](#)

(U) Texas – Cyberattack Shows Vulnerability of Gas Pipeline Network

(U) Plano – A cyberattack on a shared data network forced four of the nation's natural-gas pipeline operators to temporarily shut down computer communications with their customers over the last week. No gas service was interrupted, the company said, and the interruption to customer transactions was a precaution. It was unclear whether any customer data was stolen. The attack highlighted the potential vulnerability of the nation's energy system. Control valves, pressure monitors and other equipment connected to wireless networks are vital to daily functions of everything from refineries to oil wells.

SOURCE: 5 April 2018, [CNBC](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL**(U) Germany – Six Detained Amid Indications of Attack at Berlin Race**

(U) Berlin – Six people were detained in connection with what police and prosecutors allege was a plan to carry out an attack on Berlin's half-marathon yesterday. A police spokesman later said that no athletes or spectators had been in danger. The main suspect allegedly knew Anis Amri, a Tunisian who killed 12 people and injured dozens more when he drove a truck into a Christmas market in Berlin in December 2016. Evidence of a viable and imminent attack was not yet confirmed, according to police.

SOURCE: 8 April 2018, [Associated Press](#)

(U) Syria – At Least 70 Killed in Suspected Chemical Attack

(U) Douma – At least 70 people have died in a suspected chemical attack in Douma, the last rebel-held town in Syria's Eastern Ghouta, according to rescuers and medics. A spokesman from the Union of Medical Relief Organizations, a US-based charity that works with Syrian hospitals, said there were reports of people being treated for symptoms consistent with nerve or mixed nerve and chlorine gas exposure. Syria has called the allegations of a chemical attack a "fabrication" – as has Russia. The US State Department said Russia—with its "unwavering support" for Syria's government—"ultimately bears responsibility" for the alleged attacks.

SOURCE: 8 April 2018, [BBC](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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